



# STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

301 CENTENNIAL MALL SOUTH • PO BOX 94987 • LINCOLN, NE 68509

Highlands Golf Course  
5501 NW 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68521

August 19, 2003  
10:00 a.m. –3:00 a.m.

## MINUTES

Present: Gieschen, Ham, Lloyd, Fox, Christensen, Jelinek, Hultine, Shepard, Berger, Littlebeaver, Brown, Bloechle

Absent: Rasmussen, Kolb, Grone, Vavrina, Curry, Sorensen

I. *Public Comment*-There was no public comment.

II. *Approval of Agenda*

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Fox, seconded by Brown. Motion passed.

III. *Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2003*

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. A motion was made by Hultine, and seconded by Fox that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

IV. Election of Officers and Executive Committee (*Sue Gieschen*)

Fox made a motion, seconded by Shepard, that the rules be suspended so the council can proceed with the election of officers at this meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Nominations for Chairperson:

- Hultine nominated by Fox.
- No other nominations were made. Hultine was elected Chairperson

Nominations for Vice-Chairperson:

- Gieschen nominated by Fox
- No other nominations were made. Gieschen was elected Vice-Chairperson

Brown nominated Shepard, Ham and Vavrina for Executive Committee.

Nominations ceased and the Executive Committee was approved by acclamation.

V. Set Meeting Dates for FY 04 (*Sue Gieschen*)

Meeting date for the 2003-2004 State Rehabilitation Council meeting are:

Tuesday, October 14, 2003      Grand Island Vocational Rehabilitation office  
December 9, 2003  
February 10, 2004  
April 13, 2004  
August 10, 2004

All meetings will be scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A motion to accept the meeting dates for FY03 was made by Shepard, seconded by Jelinek. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A. IPE Notebook Presentation (*Dennis King and Janet Drudik*)

Dennis King and Janet Drudik presented to the council the most recent version of the IPE notebook. They expanded on the information given to the council at the April 15, 2003 SRC meeting. The council members were given the current handouts and IPE Workbook that VR clients receive when beginning services. The handouts accompanying and specific forms included in the Notebook were presented along with an overview of the information requested and the purpose of the individual forms. The rationale of changing from spiral bound to a three-ring binder was discussed.

VII. Reports

A. Director's Report (*Frank Lloyd*)

**1. Front/Back-End Process** – The Front end process review has resulted in staff training in the use of the Hotline for Disability Services resources. The IPE Notebook rollout continues with the training of the final offices in its use.

Phase two will look at the Back-end Process provision of services and job seeking standards. This will address the processes involved with placement activities.

**2. State Funding** – The final VR funding cut was 6.5%. This equates to about \$250,000 in lost state funds and about \$930,000 in matching federal funds. Combined total for 2004 is approximately 1.2 million. For 2005 there will be a 5.8% reduction for a total of about \$1,050,000. A supplemental appropriation bill could restore some of the VR budget cuts. The increase would restore the matching federal funds at 1:3.69 ratio. Frank will keep the SRC informed.

**3. Office location updates** – Hastings VR office has completed its move to the Grand Island location. The office will be called Central East.

Columbus VR moves October 1 to its new location. It will be in the same building as the One-stop but in a different area for VR staff.

At the Fremont One-stop VR will add one additional staff person for a total of two staff. They will service the Fremont area as well as clients at the One-stop.

**4. Transition Publications** – Making It Work a publication for transitions students, parents and educators will begin its second year of publication. The Transition Planner has been revised and will be available for VR staff/schools for transition students in September.

The Parents Transition Planner is in the early development stage. The planner is for parents of transition students to encourage non-educational planning.

**5. Grant applications** - Jack Shepard and Voc Rehab has applied for a grant through the Department of Labor. It would provide \$500,00 a year for up to 5 years for transition services.

VR will work with Pacer Center to find better ways to integrate VR services into local school curriculum.

Mark Schultz is working on an application for two federal loan programs that would provide matching funds at 3:1 and 10:1.

Jim Coyle is coordinating the Vocational Rehabilitation Equity Assistance Program (VREAP). He is working with a non-profit group of bankers that would lend money. This would be used for assistive technology for work and home, self-employment and tele-work funding

**6. Rule 72** – Rule 72 has a September 15, 2003 board hearing date.

#### B. Committee Reports

*Client Services/Satisfaction*; Ham reporting. The Committee discussed the focus for the upcoming year. They will be looking at the new VR standards being implemented for the Back-end process. Judy Vohland, a member of the placement committee that developed these changes, will be asked to attend the October Committee meeting.

The committee also discussed developing a client satisfaction survey. It would be directed to specific milestones. One timeframe suggested was two or three months after obtaining work. Committee members were asked to draft questions for possible inclusion for review at the October meeting.

*Strategic Issues*-Schultz reporting The Committee reviewed 2002-03 priority areas. It was agreed that the recommendations under Ticket to Work have been implemented by VR. Accomplishments include contracting with Easter Seals for benefits analysis, training of VR staff on work incentives, and utilization of staff state conference for training on implementation of workforce incentives.

Under the Rural Area Issues, it was agreed that VR has revised their service delivery system to reflect the needs that exist. SILC is involved in working on issues external to employability of persons with disabilities (PAS, housing, transportation, etc.). The Committee focus should be employment.

The third action item, to work with Economic Development should be revisited and revised to increase possible collaboration with community job development activities.

In the area of Special Education, the Committee agreed that VR has made great strides in implementing the recommendations and going beyond to include application to the Department of Labor for a Transition Grant. The Committee will meet prior to the next full SRC meeting to determine if new priority areas should be established and to work on recommended action steps for VR

*Interagency-Shepard reporting. The committee had done a survey on referral sources. Recommendations based on the survey had been sent to VR. The following was their response.*

1. The request to eliminate the “other” referral source category.  
*This could not be done because it is not possible to cover every possible source with a specific title. Guidance and monitoring will be done to improve the use of this category.*
2. Conduct detailed analysis of the category “self referral” category or remove it.

*Guidance and monitoring will also be done to improve the use of this referral source.*

3. Combine Job service, One-stops and Workforce Development.

*This will be done and the category will be One Stops.*

4. Increase efforts to secure referrals from employers.

*VR agrees. This is a priority in the current state plan. It will continue to be worked on.*

5. Increase efforts to secure referral from Educational Institutions.

*Some individuals referred to VR by Educational Institutions need assistance because of their disability. However many of these referrals are solely to obtain funding for school and do not have other specialized needs. VR will ask staff to seek appropriate referrals by contacting special needs coordinators at the schools.*

6. The SRC questions use of the category "VR Outreach"

*This will be removed*

7. The SRC questions the low number of referrals from "minority advocacy/support groups.

*Staff will be encouraged to include these groups in the outreach plans.*

8. The SRC asks whether we can encourage movement of individuals from Regional Center to MH Centers or Clubhouses prior to referral to the VR agency.

*VR is open to ideas on facilitating this, but are unsure how to impact this area.*

The direction of the committee is to invite public comment by increasing public awareness. Some ideas were to move the meeting site throughout the state, advertise meetings and design posters for public outreach.

#### C. CAP Report (Vicki Rasmussen)

Vicki was not in attendance and unable to report, but the CAP report was distributed to council members prior to the meeting. Discussion related to the increase of CAP cases and the time frame that they covered. Council members expressed appreciation for Vicki's abilities to resolve conflict and research policy.

#### D. SILC Report (Alvin Fox for Tim Kolb) use attached report

Tim Kolb did not attend the meeting his report was presented by Alvin Fox.

The NESILC has a new office. It is located at the Lincoln Center Building at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 520 Lincoln NE. They are in the process of hiring a new Executive Director. SILC has begun work on the State Plan for the Independent Living (SPIL). This is a three-year plan cooperatively developed by the three entities of NESILC, NE Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Vocational Rehabilitation. The purpose of the plan is to advance the Independent Living Philosophy.

SILC has decided to make increase its standing membership from 10 voting members to 19 and increase the number of its standing committees from 3 to 5.

#### E. ATP Report (Mark Schultz)

All MOUs have been signed with the One Stops to include assistive technology within their resource centers. All but two have received the equipment and training. Columbus and Scottsbluff One Stops and their assistive technology were featured in local newspaper articles.

Nebraska Dept of Labor was awarded a \$700,000 Work Incentive Grant. The Project will be a collaboration of DOL, VR, and ATP. As a part of the grant, VR staff will be co-located in the

Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island One Stops. The grant will pay for .5 FTE in each location. ATP will be providing support in the area of programmatic and physical access for all One Stops to ensure their sites and services are accessible to everyone. In addition, a Technology Specialist will work with employers to accommodate employees or potential employees with assistive devices in the workplace. To assist with this, the grant will provide more than \$250,000 to establish a loan bank of equipment for loan to employers to try out with employees or potential employees.

VII. New Business

- A. State Plan and Policy Issues (*Don Crouch*)—The state plan amendments were approved.
- B. VR Mission Statement (*Don Crouch*)—The mission statement began with the VR customer service committee. The intent was to improve both external and internal customer service. Facilitated meetings with all the offices resulted in the development the statement. When final it will be posted at offices, used in training and will influence the development of new materials.
- C. Follow-up on council recommendations for EW follow up (*Don Crouch*)—The council had made recommendations to VR concerning the EW follow up letters. VR is working on a Program Manual chapter for all staff. Don will bring back to Client Services Committee when it's complete for comment.
- D. New members (*Don Crouch*)—Susan Rocker and Mike Newman will join the Council as new members at the October 2003 meeting.

Shepard made a motion to approve development of posters with information about the SRC intended for public outreach, Poster would provide information about the SRC, its function and meeting dates. It would encourage public comment.  
Seconded by Hultine

Frank presented certificates to Pam Berger and Alvin Fox in appreciation of six years of services to the council. Today was their last council meeting.

Shepard motion to adjourn, seconded by Fox.